

Human Relations News

from the

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

July 1958

Newark Youth Attends

Encampment For Citizenship

Daniel S. Anthony, director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, announced the award of a scholarship to the 1958 Encampment for Citizenship to Miss Toby Hinkes, 183 Keer Ave., Newark.

Miss Hinkes, who is a sophomore at Upsala College, is attending the newly inaugurated West Coast session of the Encampment at International House, Berkeley, California.

The Encampment is a six-week leadership training program for promising young Americans, a "workshop in democracy", now in its thirteenth year. Its East Coast session will be held as always on the edge of New York City on the fourteen-acre campus of the Fieldston School. The Encampment's goal is "to develop effective citizens informed on the major issues which face our democracy and equipped for community action".

The 175 students accepted—100 for the New York Encampment, 75 for the Berkeley Encampment—represent a cross-section chosen for leadership promise and community interest from varied economic, racial, and religious groups. College students, farmers, industrial workers, teachers, ranchers and social workers from 28 states and fifty colleges represent this year's enrollment.

Philip Hoggard, a member of the Newark Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and teacher at Newark's Newton Street School, is a member of the teaching staff of the New York Encampment, which includes members of the faculties of Princeton, Fairleigh-Dickinson, Antioch, and the College of the City

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NEW JERSEY CITIZENS ESTABLISH COMMITTEE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN PRIVATE HOUSING

When William Levitt stated that his 15,000 home development in Burlington County, New Jersey, would be an exclusively white community, many individuals and organizations in this State became immediately aroused. The story of Mr. Levitt's continuing anti-Negro stand was given prominence in all United States newspapers and published in many foreign lands.

On Monday, June 16, the human relations directors of agencies in the City of Newark, at the invitation of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, met to discuss Mr. Levitt's policy and what could be done about it. This initial meeting was followed up by a second and third planning meeting, the largest of which took place in the office of the Jewish Community Relations Council at 32 Central Avenue on Thursday, June 19. Some 40 representatives from all parts of New Jersey, New York City and Philadelphia, met and constituted themselves a sponsoring committee for a New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

At that meeting an executive committee was selected to carry out the mandates of the group at large. These were as follows:

1. The convocation of a state-wide meeting at the Hildebrecht Hotel on Tuesday, July 1 to officially organize the state-wide committee.

2. To set up an appointment with Governor Meyner for the purpose of examining all possible legal and edu-

cational courses of action to prevent Levitt from continuing his discriminatory policy.

3. Plan for a testimonial dinner in honor of Art Chapin to be held at the Hildebrecht Hotel prior to the evening mass meeting.

James A. Pawley, Executive Director of the Urban League of Essex County and Samuel Williams, State Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, were appointed co-chairmen of the Sponsoring Committee. At a later executive session, Daniel S. Anthony, Director of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, was selected to chair the testimonial dinner in honor of Art Chapin, past Human Relations Director of the New Jersey CIO.

300 People Convene

On the sweltering, hot evening of July 1, 300 individuals and representatives of labor, religious, community, civic, social and political organizations met in the ballroom of the Hildebrecht Hotel in Trenton, New Jersey. After several informative addresses, which filled in the background of the present developments in Levittown, New Jersey and the development of the Sponsoring Committee, a formation resolution was read to the assembled delegates. The resolution briefly covered the purposes and functions of the proposed New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. It was unanimously adopted with

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Arthur Chapin Honored At Testimonial Dinner

Art Chapin, Human Relations Director of the New Jersey CIO for 10 years, was honored at a testimonial dinner at the Hotel Hildebrecht in Trenton. This tribute was on the occasion of his departure from that job to accept a position as assistant to the Deputy of the National Democratic Committee in Washington, D. C. as an organizing specialist and consultant to Paul Butler.

One hundred of Mr. Chapin's close friends and admirers spent 2 hours reminiscing on the 10 year period during which Art has done more to promote better human relations in the State of New Jersey, than any other single person. Were it not for the fighting spirit of Art Chapin, many of the laws in the statute books of this State may not have been passed. His personality and his fighting spirit were, and still are, a wonderful example to all men of goodwill.

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations owes Art Chapin a special vote of thanks for the spade work he did in paving the way for the establishment of the Commission in this City. Without his untiring efforts over a two year period in which he personally called upon all of the City Commissioners to convince them of the need for such an agency, the Commission would probably not have become a reality.

The testimonial banquet was arranged and sponsored by the Human Relations Executives of many groups which have worked with Mr. Chapin throughout the past ten years.

Good Bye, Dr. Fried

Individually and collectively the members of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations bid a fond farewell to Dr. Antoinette Fried who has been one of our most dedicated and devoted workers during the past five years. We thank her sincerely for her inspiration and assistance on our Commission and wish her satisfaction and joy in her new undertaking as a staff member of the James Weldon Johnson Community Center in East Harlem, New York.

COMMISSION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO THE RUTGERS WORKSHOPS

Dan Anthony announced the award of scholarships to the Workshops in Human Relations held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. The 1958 recipients are: Mrs. Magnolia Campbell, Health Department; Mrs. Lena Deane, Mayor's Commission on Group Relations; William Jones, Probation Department; Sgt. John Marx, Police Department; Clyde D. Mitchell, Mayor's Office and Martin Rogoff, Newark Housing Authority.

The Rutgers' workshops, Community Leadership in Intergroup Relations, July 13-19 and the advanced Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations, July 20-26, are sponsored by the State Division Against Discrimination, National Conference of Christians and Jews and Rutgers University.

The Community Leadership Workshop is designed for those "persons who wish to improve their understanding of the problems confronting them in the area

of intergroup relations and to learn up-to-date techniques useful to their solution".

The Modern Trends Workshop is an advanced course designed for those who have had previous workshop experience or extensive work in intergroup relations in the community.

The Commission annually presents these scholarships to qualified city employees or Newark residents who are interested in participating in a one week experience which will better equip them to meet the challenge of improving intergroup relations on the job and in their neighborhoods. These workshopers and other alumni utilize their skills and knowledge not only in their respective jobs, agencies or organizations, but also to assist the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in carrying out its program of education and action for the perfection of our democracy.



The 1958 scholarship recipients for the Rutgers Workshop meet to receive congratulations from the City and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations. From left to right: Mrs. Magnolia Campbell, Clyde D. Mitchell, Sgt. John Marx, Mrs. Lena Deane, Martin Rogoff, Vincent Torrey, Corporation Counsel, City of Newark, Dan Anthony, Director, Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and William Jones. Not shown: Miss Ethel Bull.

Seven Clinton Hillers Attend Ohio Conference

By STANLEY B. WINTERS

President, Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council

Seven members of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council joined 350 other community organization workers in the biennial conference on "District Council's Role and the Preservation of Human Values" co-sponsored by the United Community Funds and Councils of America (UCFCA) and the Ohio State University, School of Social Administration. Discussions and informal chats were held with delegates coming from places as widely separated as St. Louis, Boston, and Atlanta, opening new vistas for the Clinton Hillers, who are seeking to build morale, cooperation, and mutual respect among residents in their section of Newark.

Six workshops occupied delegates for almost five hours at the conference. They covered organizational aspects, identifying local needs, developing citizen understanding and participation, dealing with community problems, teaming with city-wide agencies and council role in metropolitan planning.

The value of block groups was defended by one of the Clinton Hillers present, who called them "a training ground for alert, united community action on a basic level, and a common meeting ground for persons who normally might not even nod to each other". He declared that block branches in Clinton Hill were being formed by Council members as integral parts of the overall group.

The importance of preserving neighborhood standards was stressed by Frank Sulewski of the Association of Community Councils of Metropolitan Chicago. He cited the South Side Forum which was organized in one community to fight the operations of an offensive city dump a mile away. Eventually, Sulewski said, the Forum set up a "property value maintenance committee" which hired legal counsel to pursue violations of zoning and housing codes until they were abated. He said that today the Forum's objectives are: "1) to preserve the desirable residential nature of the community; 2) to preserve neighborhood standards against pressures of expediency, and 3) to demonstrate that

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What Are We Doing In Our Neighborhoods?

This is a question often asked by the citizens of Newark, particularly those interested in better living conditions. Newark is "doing something" now! Newark is in the midst of an intensive program to conserve the good, rehabilitate the poor and renew the obsolete neighborhoods with the creation of a Commission for Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation (N.C.N.C.R.) some two years ago, composed of 18 community-minded citizens.

An application has recently been approved by the Urban Renewal Division of the Housing and Homes Finance Agency, as authorized by Section 314 of the Housing Act of 1954, granting to the City the sum of \$115,000 for a pilot study project on a city-wide basis. This will give the opportunity for examination of "blight" and development of a plan for the elimination of blighted areas based upon need and existing conditions.

Such an ambitious program needs citizens' aid and support. Such groups as the Associated Community Councils, tenant and landlord associations, and block associations are developing the following program of enlightened self-interest:

Understand the need for concurrent improvement of private properties as well as public improvements. This means

The Commission Acts

At its regular June meeting the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations unanimously voted to go on record in deploring the attitude of William J. Levitt and his stated intention to make his development, now under construction in Burlington County, New Jersey, an all-white community.

In its resolution to Governor Robert B. Meyner and Attorney General David D. Furman, the Commission urged "that every effort and legal power be exerted to make William Levitt adhere to the Constitution of the State of New Jersey and to prevent him from forcing his Burlington, New Jersey Levittown to become an all-white community". The Commission also stated that this situation points out the need for anti-discrimination legislation in the field of private housing.

each individual should maintain a regular program of home improvement and property maintenance.

Survey blocks and neighborhoods for existing and potential blighting condition and influences.

Eliminate and prevent these conditions through group effort on a cooperative neighborhood basis.

Keep each other informed of problems and projects through regular meetings and neighborhood newsletters.

List their organization with the N.C.N.C.R., which will keep them informed of changes and planning affecting their neighborhood.

Familiarize themselves with the City's codes, ordinances and the operation of governmental services of the many city agencies.

Work together to create the neighborliness of a small homogeneous community with harmonious personal and group relations.

The Newark Commission on Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation helps citizens through its program to:

1. Assist in community organization. Any block or neighborhood wishing to form a council, will, on request, receive assistance in community organization.

2. Provide advisory aid. When organizational or operative difficulties occur on the neighborhood level, advisory aid is available.

3. Furnish speakers for meetings of neighborhood groups, civic or business clubs. Talks are on related topics and answers to specific questions.

4. Render program aids in the form of movies and slide presentations.

5. Distribute printed material, bulletins and pamphlets on many subjects related to neighborhood conservation and rehabilitation at regular scheduled intervals.

There are no charges for these services. Interested citizens and citizen groups are encouraged to contact the agency. For further information write or call James F. Judge, Executive Secretary or James F. King, Coordinator, N.C.N.C.R., Room 210, City Hall, Market 3-6300, Extension 361.

New Jersey Committee Established

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a minimum of discussion from the floor. The newly-born organization was given added strength as numerous organization representatives asked for the floor to pledge the membership of their entire organization to the ideals and principles of the new group. A part of the future planning calls for a second mass meeting to be held in Trenton early in September for the purpose of renewing the action program against Levitt as people have returned from their summer vacations.

On Monday, June 7, at 11 a.m., representatives of 38 organizations met with Governor Meyner and carried out the mandate of the new State Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. The Governor said that the actions of this group could "promote a public atmosphere which might result in a changing of mind by Levitt". Committee members reported that Governor Meyner pledged "all forces of the State government will be used to enforce last year's law banning segregation in housing in which public monies are involved." The group urged Meyner to have the State take these steps against Levitt:

Immediate processing of the complaint against Levitt which is now before the Division Against Discrimination, which also should get an attorney to work solely on the Levitt case.

Revoke Levitt's certificate of incorporation on grounds it conceals an intention to operate contrary to public policy.

Encampment For Citizenship

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of New York. Mr. Hoggard will head the Workshop on Civil Rights, a basic feature of the Encampment program.

Other young Newark students attending the Encampments include John Lowenstein, a recent graduate of the Newark Academy, who is also attending the West Coast unit, and Joseph Martino, freshman at Montclair State College, enrolled at the New York Encampment.

Dr. John P. Milligan, director of the New Jersey State Division Against Discrimination, will be a guest lecturer at the New York Encampment Monday, July 14th. The Encampment program includes participation by outstanding authorities on social, political, economic and international issues.

Obtain an injunction to prevent Levitt from acting against the Anti-Discrimination Law and the New Jersey Constitution.

Issue a public statement "unequivocally" declaring he will take all action in his power to bar the segregated project.

The group, which said Levitt's statement of "all-white" policy is sufficient evidence for the state to proceed against him, added that although Meyner has assailed the Levitt plans, he has not yet acted against them.

Students and Mrs. Bates To Receive NAACP Medal

Nine Negro teenagers, the first of their race to enroll in Central High School of Little Rock, and Mrs. L. C. Bates, their mentor and president of the Arkansas State Conference of Branches, have been chosen as this year's recipients of the Spingarn Medal. Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, announced.

The medal, awarded annually to a Negro American for distinguished achievement, was presented at the 49th annual NAACP convention in Cleveland, July 8-13.

In selecting Mrs. Bates and these six girls and three boys, the Spingarn Award Committee broke two precedents. For the first time, the award, regarded as the most coveted in the field, is being given to a group rather than an individual. Also for the first time minors are recipients of the award.

The children and Mrs. Bates are cited for "their courageous self-restraint in the face of extreme provocation and peril," and for "their exemplary conduct in upholding the American ideals of liberty and justice." Their role in the Little Rock crisis, the citation continues, "entitles them to the gratitude of every American who believes in law and order, equality of rights, and human decency."

The young people entered Central High last September in compliance with a federal district court order. They were at first denied admittance by Arkansas state troopers acting on orders of Governor Orval E. Faubus. Later they were admitted under the protection of federal troops dispatched to Little Rock by President Eisenhower to prevent interference with the court order.

Ohio Conference

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the racial and religious composition of a community does not matter if agreed standards are maintained". He admonished leaders present to "correlate local needs with overall metropolitan problems" for maximum long-range effectiveness.

"What makes some councils succeed where others die?", asked Mrs. Muriel Andrews, secretary, Detroit Federation of Community Councils. One important factor, Mrs. Andrews said, was professional staff workers on the local community level.

"The paid worker," she said, "provides the organizational insurance that council policies will be carried out."

Among those entering the discussion on the merits of paid staff versus volunteers was Mrs. R. Neal Owens, president of the Associated Community Councils of Newark. "What guarantee is there that the paid worker will act as supporter and executor of council policy, and not its initiator?", she asked. Joseph Vilimas of the Chatham-Avalon Park Council answered that the work of the paid staff members could be so laid out that it would not impinge into policy-making areas. In many instances, Vilimas stated, a full-time staff was essential to help transform the "prevailing state of organized apathy into purposeful area and city-wide action."

The Clinton Hill delegation brought with it copies of "Human Relations News" furnished by the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations and samples of newsletters and reports published by its block branches and executive committees. One long-lasting effect of the conference may blossom from addresses exchanged with other delegations into a trans-continental swapping of techniques and news items. Council members will hear report-back accounts of the trip and the conference from those who attended.

The Clinton Hill delegation included Mrs. Mildred Helms, vice-president; Mrs. Emma Pitts, branch chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Landever, members of the Bergen Street branch; Mrs. Helen Winters, chairman, block building committee; the Rev. Stanley J. Hallett, Trinity Methodist Church, vice-president; and Stanley B. Winters, Council president.